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PATENT

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Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The examiner has allowed Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 15-19, which is gratefully acknowledged, and has rejected Claims 9-11 and 14 (of which 9, 10, and 14 are independent) under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Devlin et al., USPN 6,710,621. Also, dependent Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Devlin et al. in view of Reents, USPN 5,860,125.

As now amended, Claims 9, 10, and 14 all clarify that the state value changing combination circuit changes the state values one by one in a predetermined order corresponding to the temporal order in which a target combination of voltages is desired to be received as disclosed in, e.g., paragraph 26 of the present specification. In contrast, Devlin et al. does not appear to teach or suggest that the voltage data that is sent serially from daughterboard to motherboard (as correctly noted by the examiner) implicates any order of how the target voltages are to be received, but rather only specifies what the various target voltages are to be. Indeed, at col. 9, lines 8-16, Devlin et al. appears to contemplate that the various voltages are independent of each other:

"In an embodiment power control circuitry specifies the output voltage of each programmable power supply using a separate four-bit control word. This allows one of 16 possible power supply output voltages to be selected. Four-bit words are also used to control digital-to-analog converters in the programmable reference voltage generators. It will be obvious to one skilled in the art that a different number of control bits might be appropriate according to the chips chosen to implement the reference voltage generators."

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Thus, Devlin et al. appears to envision that each voltage is separately ordered using a unique control word, independent of the order in which the voltages are actually to be supplied to the daughterboard.

The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (619) 338-8075 for any reason which would advance the instant application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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